

BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1944

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1944.

On the whole it has been a very successful year as far as the health of the area is concerned.

The number of births has kept up and a birth rate of 19 per 1,000 is satisfactory.

The number of deaths is smaller than usual and a death rate of 9 per 1,000 compared with a birth rate of 19 means that the population of the area is steadily increasing.

The Infant Mortality Rate at 32 per 1,000 live births is much below the average and this is satisfactory.

The Cleansing Station has been a great boon to the community and I find that persons infected with Scabies are very keen to have the treatment. This includes fathers and mothers as well as children.

Housing of the working classes is a matter of urgency and as you are keen on having the position improved it is to be hoped, that in the near future, the position with regard to housing will have improved considerably.

Sewage disposal is another matter of great importance. It is to be hoped that very soon concrete proposals will have materialised so that at any rate the more populated areas should have a proper sewage disposal scheme in being.

The milk supply in the area is a matter that requires continual supervision and my relations, as well as the Sanitary Inspector's, with the milk sub-committee of the War Agricultural Executive Committee have been very cordial. Consequently we are able to keep the standard of milk supplied to the community in as satisfactory a condition as possible.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. C. ROBERTSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	83,930
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Book	...	...	...	5,180
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£48,016
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£189. 12. 0
Population	...	...	...	18,980

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

No change has occurred in the social conditions of the District during the year.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births, Legitimate	346	186	160
Illegitimate	28	18	10
Stillbirths, Legitimate	13	8	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Deaths	183	91	92
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	19.70
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	9.64

Of the total number of deaths registered in the District during 1944, the following were in respect of children under one year of age :-

Legitimate	Males : 7	Females ; 4	Total : 11
Illegitimate	Males : 1	Females : —	Total : 1
	—	—	—
	8	4	12
	—	—	—

The Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 registered live births was therefore 32.09.

Deaths from Measeles (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	27

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

NURSING IN THE HOME

The arrangements operated by the District Nursing Association and the Holland County Council continued to function during the year.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

Treatment Centres and Clinics in respect of Venereal Diseases, Tuberculosis and the Infant Welfare and School Medical Service, and also for dealing with dental, orthopaedic ante-natal cases, continue to be provided by the Holland County Council.

CLEANSING STATION

A new health service has been inaugurated during the year, viz : the Cleansing Station at 4 London Road,

52 schoolchildren and 57 other persons residing in the Rural District have received treatment, and in the vast majority of cases, one cleansing has proved sufficient.

Time is showing that this new service is most beneficial and every encouragement is given to persons suffering from Scabies etc. to make full use of it.

SECTION C

WATER SUPPLY

Length of Water mains	...	...	519 yds. (2in.)
Consumption of Water for 1944	...	...	81,966,000 galls.
Average per day	...	...	224,564.3 galls.

SAMPLES OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

Samples were taken from Public supply in all Parishes at regular intervals during the year and forwarded to the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London for testing. The result in every case proved the water to be satisfactory.

WATER (Other than Main Supply)

Number of samples taken from Wells or Rainwater Cisterns	2
Number found upon analysis to be unfit	2

SECTION D

HOUSING AND SANITATION ETC.

Number of new houses erected during 1944 other than by the Local Authority	0
Erected by the Local Authority	14

MINISTRY OF HEALTH CIRCULAR No. 64/44 AND THE THIRD REPORT OF THE RURAL HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Following the issue of the above Circular and Report, the Rural Authorities within the Holland County formed a joint Committee to decide a reasonable standard of housing for the whole area. The Holland County Council and other authorities were represented.

Owing to the staff being engaged on Salvage, A.R.P. and other work of National importance few inspections of dwelling houses were undertaken under the Housing Act during the year. As in previous war years, complaints were dealt with and only urgent repairs undertaken. Again shortage of labour and materials necessitated this action.

Number of houses found to be in a state unfit for human habitation	2
Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was signed that the premises would not be relet but would be used for agricultural store purposes	2
Number of houses repaired under Housing Act (Informal notices)	15

THE DEFENCE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1939

Two licenses were issued enabling the owners of 2 Houses to temporarily use the premises for occupation of persons engaged on agricultural work.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Council has decided to consider proposals for the construction of sewers and outfalls wherever practicable throughout the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Scavenging was undertaken by Contract up to the end of March and on the first of April the Council embarked on their own scheme.

The work was undertaken at very short notice, arrangements were made to hire a motor tank for pails from the Boston Corporation for a period of three months at least and for a maximum period of six months and to use the tipper lorry of the Salvage Department for ashbins. The motor tank was an old one, and run by the Corporation for a distance of 2 to 3 miles weekly. It was entirely unsuited as a permanent measure for scavenging. At the end of the year it was still being used although the Council had attempted to obtain a permit to get delivery of a proper vehicle.

The tipper lorry had a loading height of much in excess of a normal vehicle.

Labour, as in most districts, was difficult. Application was made to the local Labour exchange on many occasions and by advertisement in the local press, with no result.

The scavenging is undertaken in the Urban parts of the following parishes

Parish	No. of Houses in Area	No. of Pails
FISHTOFT	374	46
KIRTON	358	182
WYBERTON	362	150

PARTICULARS OF NUISANCES REMEDIED UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Closet Pails renewed	15
Sanitary Bins renewed	10
Water Closets cleaned and repaired	22
Keeping animals to be a nuisance	2
Insufficient closet accommodation	1
Drains cleansed	8
Spouting cleansed and repaired	7
Sinks provided in houses	4
Cesspools cleansed and repaired	5
Dirty Houses cleansed	21
General repairs to houses, windows, etc.	10
Privies and Vaults	5
Accumulation of Rubbish	14

TENTS, VANS AND MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Inspections	12
Nuisances found to exist	2
Nuisances abated	2

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ORDER 1919. INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

The Council appointed a Pest Officer in May. A survey was made of the district.

Total number of Rat infested areas cleared ...	86
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The Pest Officer gives instructions to Owner or Occupier should they decide to undertake the work themselves.

DRAINAGE

Number of tests to new drains	38
Number of tests (smoke)	Nil
Number of tests (retests)	10
Number of tests to old houses (smoke)	Nil

DRAINAGE

Visits to remedied defects	...	...	...	89
New Drains	...	...	...	38

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936 and 1938

A License to use the Special Designation "Pasteurised" in relation to milk treated by the pasteurising process was granted by the Council during the year.

The following Supplementary Licenses were issued during the year :-

1 Authorising the use of the special designation "Accredited"

1 Authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"

14 samples of pasteurised milk were taken and in each case the result proved satisfactory.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS

Number of Cowkeepers on Register	...	...	180
Number of Retail Purveyor (premises in district)	...		8)
Number of Retail Purveyors (premises outside district)			3) ¹¹
Number of Cowsheds inspections and visits	...		41
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	10
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...		8

8 samples of milk were taken and 6 proved of poor keeping quality.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Food condemned include :-

Meat	...	653 lbs.
Bacon	...	183 lbs.
1 lb. tins of Jam		5
Tins of Meat	...	35
Tins of Beef Hash		144
Tins of Milk	...	15

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	In January, 1944	In December, 1944
Licensed	2	2

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Licensed Premises (knackers yard)	1
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BAKEHOUSES

Nunber on Register	22
Number of Inspections	16
Contraventions of Regulations	1

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following Infectious Diseases were notified during the year :-

Scarlet Fever	...	58
Whooping Cough	...	20
Diphtheria	...	1
Erysipelas	...	8
Measles	...	10
Pneumonia	...	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1
Chicken Pox	...	53
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		4
German Measles	...	2
Scabies	...	56

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Arrangements for the immunisation of schoolchildren and children of pre-school age are made by the Holland County Council under the School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Services respectively.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Visits and Disinfections by Sanitary Inspector	...	143
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